of Prisons and Prisoners.

COMPILED BY NOVVS
HOMO A PRISONER
in the Kings Bench
Estrang Imprisoned.

*Experientia est optimus magister.*

# TO HIS MOST KIND AND EVER RESPECTIVE Kind Vnckle, M. *Mathew Mainwaring of* Namptwitch *in* Chesshire.

SInce my coming into Prison, what with the strangnes of the place, and strictnesse of my Liberty, I am so transported that I could not follow that study wherein I tooke great delight and cheife pleasure, and to spend my time Idly would but add more discontentments to my troubled breast, & bring in this chaos of discontentments, fantasies must arise, which wil bring forth the fruites of an Idle brayne, for è *Malis minimum*. It is far better to giue some account of time though to little purpose then none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Essayes, & few Characters of such things as by my owne experience, I could say *Probatum est*: not that thereby I should either please the reader, or shew exquisitnes of inuention, or curious style. Seing what I write of, is but the child of sorrow, bred by discontentments

and nourisht vp with misfortunes, to whose help melancholly *Saturne* gaue his Iudgement. The night Bird hir invention, and the ominous *Rauen* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the Inke of misery as cheife ayders in this great Architect of so row.

This child is borne and brought to the Font, all things ready, onely there wants a patron. *Hoc difficilimum est.* For who will defend sorrow, and misery, who wil giue him entertainment, who will countenance this worke the Author being miserable, who will respect the matter, the man being an abiect, who wil cherish the circumstance when the substāce is almost perished? Surely *non in his diebus*, for friendship is banished, loue extinguished, natural affection gone to trauel, gould is dearer then a friend, treasure is nearer thē a kinsman, and mammon better beloued then a sonne. Yet in this famine of true friends I will venter vpon you (most louing Vnckle) as a god-father to this my first borne though in misery. I can haue but a denyall which if you doe it must dye in oblinion. But

why

why ſhould I feare ſince you haue alwaies bin my anchor when I haue bin Ship-wrackt, and many times ſaued my poore Barque when it was ready to ſplit. Why thē ſhold I doubt of your friendly patronage which haue neuer fayled me? Be bould then, and goe thy way, thou ſhalt be entertained though not for any worth which is in thee, yet in reſpect thou doſt but ſhew a willing heart, and doſt endeauour to expell ingratitude a thing moſt odious not onely to man but God, not to Chriſtians but Heathens, nor to Heathens but Beaſts.

What then ſhould I giue to you for all your kindneſſes which you haue continually beſtowed vpon me which are ſo many that if I ſhould endeauour to recite (*Ante diem clauſo componet veſper olympo*) but to ſhew my willingnes to my power though I am not able to requite (*for, vltra poſſe non eſt eſſe*) doe offer vp vnto the Oracle of your loue the ſacrifice of a louing heart, hoping that what is amiſſe you will impute it to the ſlendernes of my iudgement, and the dulnes of my brayne which this place hath made worſe (and

not to the left defect of good will.) & that you would let none but your selfe see my imperfections, which are sufficiently divulged by my owne actions, & would be vnwilling to haue a second edition of them by my writing. this was the chiefest cause I tooke this in hand; another was because that happily some friend of mine (*post mea funera*) by accident may find this paper, & read them & by my example say, *Felix sum quem pericula huius authoris faciunt me cautum*, for *qui non ante cauet post dolebit*, & that they may be afraide to enter into debt any further then necessity vrgeth, & if they be forced to borrow to pay as soone as the can (for vsury & extortion bite deepe) and credit once cracke is not easily recouered nor all creditors of on mind, for some will in pitty forbeare and others will shew the greatest seuerity. So hoping you will accept *non donum sed munus*. I rest this 27. of *Ianuary Anno* 1617.

From the Kings-bench Prison in *South-warke*.

Your euer-louing nephew

*Yarffeg Llubsrym*.

To

# TO THE COVRTEous Reader.

Courteous Reader only to banish melancholy, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in respect of this place, I gathered a few essayes & characters, with an intent not to haue the seen of any, but to him to whom they were sent, being on that I might truly ground a certainty of, who would excuse my imperfections, and iudge charitably of my slendernes of iudgment, this copy by accident came to some of my friends hands, who hauing perused it wished mee to put it in print, which I altogether refused, because I would not presume of my owne iudgment, or dare to venter to put my selfe to the censure of so many vnderstanding readers into whose hands it is subiect to fall, these perswasions preuailed not, intreaties were laid aside, and I must either divulge them, or else loose their loue this was the first motiue that with an vnwilling willingnes caused me to put my booke to censure. Another was in respect some obdurate creditors may reade it, & by reading mollifie their strong harts. The

last

last reason because it may be as a caueat to young gallants, to terrifie them how they run in debt, wherein they may know that imprisonment is of all miseries most lamentable.

So hoping that the iudicious will with laudable censure mittigate my many imperfections, and the other iudge fauorably of my intention, which if it take well is better then I can expect, if otherwise they do not iniury mee, giuing deserts his reward.

ESSAYES

# Essays of a Prison.

TO what end or purpose should I intreat halfe of the Muses for the ayd of inuention, or *Cicero* to adorne my phrase with eloquence, or *Floras* deepe iudgment to write iudicially, or implore ayde of *Martiall* to speake mistically, or *Virgills heroicke stile* to please the hearers, since what I write is nothing but of sorrow, the subiect but discontentment, and the whole matter but an Index of many miseryes, & therefore my phrase shalbe altogether vnpolished, being the seruant of my more dull apprehension.

*Vade sed incultus, qualem decet exulis esse,*
*Infelix habitum temporis huius habe.*

My purpose is with dim water coulors to lime me out a heart, yea such a heart so disconsolate & oppressed, that I need not to be curious in fitting euery coulor to his place, or to chuse the pleasantest chamber to draw it in, because in it

If I am to lay downe the bounds of those tempestuous seas in which ten thousands are euery day tossed, if not ouerwhelmed, which is so vnhallowed amongst vs that euery one is arts master in this workmanship, euery minute some thing or other is still added to this distressed Picture, whose ponderous waight is so great that the frame is scarce able to beare the *effigies*.

My trauells hither to this infernall Iland was but a short voyage, and my abode here as yet but few months, but it was longer to me then an East Indian voyage, and I am sure farre more dangerous for if from the Indyes of sixty men twenty come home safe it is well, but in this if eighty of a hundred be not cast ouer board it is a wonder.

Loci incommoditas.

Being once arriued, no starre of comfort heere can be seene to sayle by, no hauen of happynesse neere, no anchor of hope to cast out, Top-sayle, Foresayle, Sprit-sayle, Mizen, Mayne, Sheate, Bollings and Drablers are all torne by the windes, and the Barque it selfe so weather-beaten, that there is few can come

ome neere to touch at the Cap of *Bo-*
*a Speranza.*

Being once arriued at, all are not ouer-
y stayd, but the inchauntments are so
rõg that it transformeth all that come
hither. First the greatest courages
re here wracked, the faireſt reuenewes
loe here cõe aground, it maketh a wiſe
mã to looſe his witts, a foole to know
himſelfe, it turnes a rich man into a
begger, and leaues a poore man deſpe-
rate, he whom neither Snowes nor
Alpes can vanquiſh, but hath a heart
as conſtant as *Haniball*, him can the
miſeryes of a Priſon ouercome.

## *The Character of a Priſon.*

A *Priſon* is a graue to bury men a-
liue, and a place wherein a man
for halfes yearcs impriſonment may
learne more lawe, then he can at *Weſt-*
*minſter* for a hundred pound.

It is a *Microcoſmos*, a little world of
woe, it is a mappe of miſery, it is a place
that will learne a young man more
villany if he be apt to take it in one
halfe yeare, thẽ he can learne at twen-
ty dycing howſes, Bowling allyes,

Brothel-

Brothelhouses, or Ordinaryes, and an old man more pollicie then if he had bin Pupill to *Machiauill*.

It is a place that hath more diseases predominat in it, then the *pest-house* in the plague tyme, and it stinckes more then the Lord Mayors dogge-house or paris-garden in *August*.

It is a little common wealth, although little wealth be commō there, it is a desart where desert lyes hoodwinckt it is a famous Citty wherein are all trades, for here lyes the *Alchymist* that can rather make *ex auro non aurum*, then *ex non auro aurum*.

It is as intricate a place as *Rosamunds Labyrinth*, and is as full of blind *Meanders*; and crooked turnings that it is vnpossible to find the way out except he be directed by a siluer clue, and can neuer ouercome *Minotaure* without a goulden ball to worke his owne safety,

It is as Innes of Court, for heerin *Lawyers* inhabit, that haue crochets to free other men yet all their quirks & quiddities cannot infranchise themselues.

It is the Doctors Commons where ilfull *Physitians* frequent, who like *Esculapius* can cure other mens diseases, yet cannot Quintessence out of all their Vegetalls and Mineralls a Balmum, or Elixir to make a soueraigne plaister to heale the surfet the mace hath giuen them.

It is the *Chyrurgions* hall where many are artists liue, that can search other mens wounds yet cannot heale the wound the *Searieant* hath giuen them.

It is your *Bankrupts* banqueting house, where he sits feasting with the sweete meates borrowed from other mens tables, having a voluntary disposition neuer to repay them againe.

It is your *Prodigalls* (*vltimum refugium*) wherein he may see himselfe as in a glasse what his excesse hath brought him to, and least that he should surfet, comes hither to *Phisicke* himselfe with moderate dyet, and least that his bed of downe should breed too many diseases, comes hither to change his bed where he is scarse able to lye downe.

It is a *Purgatory* which doth afflict a man with more miseries then euer

he

he reaped pleasures.

It is a pilgrimage to extenuate sin and absolue offences: for heere be *Seminaries* and *Masse-Priests* which do take downe the pride of their flesh more, then a voyage to the holy Land or a hayre shirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth banish a man from all contentments, wherein his accounts doe so terrify him, that it makes a man grow desperate.

To conclude what is it not? in a word it is the very *Idea* of all misery and torments; it conuerts ioy into sorrow, riches into pouerty, ease into discontentments, and further,

*Of all the ill that may be thought,*
*Imagind or be writ:*
*In prison here a man shall find,*
*Which will his owne heart split.*

## Of Prisoners.

I Could wish that every one that comes to prison should not be dismayed, but carry it out bravely & with resolution, & to consider that no misery in this world is endlesse. After

storm

stormes calms wil arise, & though sorrow be over night yet ioy will come in the morning, & to say as *Cæsar* did to the Pilott that carried him when he was afraid, (quoth he) *thou carriest Cæsar*: So every generous minde ought to be arm'd with resolution to meete all stormes of adversitie, and to consider that man was borne to misery, and therefore naturall to him.

Omnis homo Miser.

But thou wilt peradventure say the name of a Prisoner is loathsome to thee, is it because thou art cooped vnder locke and key? Is it because thou feelest wants? Is it because thou art barred of freedome? Is it because thy freinds looke strangely on thee or forsake thee? Is it because thou art disgraced and holden in scorne? Is it because thou lodgest hardly and peradventure with an ill bed-fellow: Yet let not all these dismay thee, for hadst thou the whole Countrey to walke in, yet thy soule is still imprisoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want discourage thee, for thy redeemer suffered hunger & cold to fulfil thy wants. Let not want of freedome trouble

thee

thee, thy *Saviour* was fettered and manackled to infranchise thee, Let not the coy lookes of thy frends dismay thee, thy Lord was scorned of all men to bring thee into favour. Let not disgraces molest thee, the King of Kings was most disgraced to honour thee, let not thy lodging or forced chamber fellowes afflict thee, the *Pilot* of thy safety was lodged in a *manger* and made a companion for theeues. But looke into thy owne bosome & learne but a short rule yet very difficult viz: (*Nosce te ipsum*) and thou shalt find it is not imprisonment that afflicts thee, but the evill which is in thy selfe, makes thee so distastfull; for hadst thou all things at will, yet still thou wouldst wish for more. The greatest Monarch liues not without some discontentment, and comfort thy selfe that one day thou shalt be infranchised and goe to that place and mansion house which is prepared for thee, where all scores shall be payd, all cares banished, and all teares wiped away.

Nosce tuipsum.

Nemo vivit contentus.

Varlets and Catch-poles arrest thee, fret not at it, if law haue power

to

to whet an axe. she must pick out a hang-man to strike the mace, this doeth but onely put thee in remembrance of that arrest which shall Summon thee to appeare at the Imperiall Court of heauen.

Thy accounts are many and great which are against thee, yea some of you come to a tormenting execution, greeue not at this, it doth but teach thee that thy accounts must be brought against thee, to draw thee to a reckoning to make thee to knowe that thou owest a reckoning to heauen as well as man, and Iustice will execute her power not to driue thee to despaire, but to a mendment. Redde rationem.

Further I perswade my selfe their are many prisoners whose resolution are so noble, and resolute that before they would yeeld to the threats of an insulting creditour, they would cherefully thrust their nekes into the yoake of aduersity, if no more veines herein were cut but their owne, but here is none so poore which dyes in prison but the last gap doth cracke the heart-strings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends or allies, therefore art thou Parentes et Liberi sunt chari.

thou bound to take pitty of thy selfe, and to hang out the flag of truce to thy bloudy-minded Creditor, and seeke for ransome to pay all so that thou maist escape with life, though it be vpon some ignoble tearmes, and much losse to thee, if none of these respects, yet for thy Countries sake, to whom thou art a Traytor if thou giue thy selfe to thine enimies hand when vpon parley thy peace may be made. Come forth of Prison, and dye not there, that thou maiest honour thy King, and do seruice to thy countrey, and pay thy dets so farre as thou art able, because the greatest debt that euer thou didst owe was paid for thee.

## *Prisoners of another nature.*

SOme there be which haue gotten other mens goods and soe lye here to defraud them, these of all men deserue no pitty, or compassion, which tie their owne hands, and make themselues gally slaues onely to weare golden setters. how canst thou say thy prayers, and expect a blessing should be poured on thee, that so willingly erreſt from the type of a iust mā which

is

is (*Suum cuique attribuere*) I will not ſpeake much of thee, becauſe it muſt be all gall. In a word the gallowes on which the poore theefe hangeth is moſt fit for thee, he robbeth one man, thou whole families, he is a felon to man onely; thou art a felon to God and man, if he kill, he doth it ſodainly and but one. when thou with a lingring death deſtroyeſt father, mother, children, and peraduenture many Orphants left to their charge. But looke to it that although thou compound for two ſhillings or three ſhillings in the pound, the ouerplus which thou ſo ill haſt got will bring thy ſoule into ſuch debt that the remainder will not pay the intereſt to ſaue the forfaiture of thy ſoule to the Diuell, which will damne thee and thy angells, with him and his angells, and thy iſſue or allies which ſhall inioy them ſhall neuer proſper with them.

Fac aliis fieri quod velis ipſe tibi.

Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non melio res.

## *The Character of a Priſoner.*

A Priſoner is an impatient patient lingring vnder the rough hands of a cruell phyſition, his creditour hauing caſt his water knowes his diſeaſe,

Bona male parta, male diſabuntur.

and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleasure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freedome running by his dore, yet cannot enioy the least benefit thereof, his greatest griefe is that his credit was so good, and now no better. his land is drawne within the compasse of a sheepes skin and his owne hand the fortification that bars him of entrance, he is fortunes tossing-ball, an obiect that would make mirth melancholly, to his friends an abiect, and a subiect of nine dayes wonder in euery Barbers shoppe, and a mouth-full of pitty (that he had no better fortune) to Midwiues, and talkeatiue gossips, and all the content that this transitory life can giue him seemes but to flout him, in respect the restraint of liberty barres the true vse. To his familiars he is like a plague, whom they dare scarse come nigh for feare of infection, he is a monument ruined by those which raised him, he spends the day with a *hei mihi, væ miserum*, & the night with a *Nulla dolor est medicabilis herbâ*: to conclud.

*A Prisoner is a woefull man,*
*Oppresst with griefe of mind.*

*And*

*And tell his miseries, no man can*
*Which he is sure to finde.*

## *Of Creditors.*

A *Creditor* hath two payre of hands on of flesh and blood, & that nature gaue him: another of Iron, & that the law giues him: but the one is more predominant then the other, for mercy guids the one, & mãmon the other. But if he once consider what he goeth about to doe, and that it is the image of God whõ he goeth about to deface and oppresse with miseries, & calamities then the softnes of the one doth so operate, that it meets with the hardnes of the other, which neuer cões to passe but when grace & mercy kiles Law & Iustice, but such dayes are seldome set downe in our Calenders, neither will it serue this Iland, but perswade my selfe that for a strange meridian is that Almanack calculated in which they are found.

Deus fecit hominem secundum imaginem suam.

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too much to learne it heere) haue knowne of my owne knowledg a hundred creditors which haue laid their debtors in irons as relentles as

themselues, and of those hundred, if I should add a hundred more, I thinke I should nominate but one onely, and only on of a mercifull breast, who did not onely greiue to see his debtor oppresst with misery, but also layd money out of his purse to free him, he shot a second arrow to finde the first and suppose he shot both away, doe you thinke his quiuer was the emptier? No, he scattered a handfull of corne & reaped a bushell, he receiued treble interest, he gained by this new securitie, & such as would not faile him at the day; God became his debtor, and paid him more then his accompt came to.

Ironia. Thou that art a Creditor wilt not beleeue this; doe not. But in stead of this mans weeping make thy debtor melt into teares, and in stead of his lamentation reioyce hee is in thy hands to vse him cruelly, and flatter thy selfe in saying thou hast no reason to loose so much by him, and I will haue his body, or in perswading thy selfe that his friends will not let him lye for such a debt, and that thou wilt not forgiue him, but *volens volens* will be satisfied, or else he shall starue and

rott

rot? O thou wicked man, thou neuer doſt conſider what teares thy Sauiour ſhed to free thee, and when thou waſt giuen vp to the priſon of hell by the hands of thy cruell creditour the Diuel to be cruelly tormented, yet Chriſt paid all thy ſcoares with his pretious bloud, and how canſt thou lye downe on thy pillow to pray to God to forgiue thee a million of debts, nay they run into *infinitum*, which will not forgiue thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not redeeme thee thy Sauiour freed thee, how canſt thou doe theſe things with a ſafe cõſcience? Doſt thou not ſleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnatiõ, thy prayers turne into curſings, and thou doſt but mock him that thou prayeſt vnto. Homo homini lupus.

Conſider what a great ſcoare thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou ſhalt not eſcape if thou vſe ſuch cruelty till thou haſt paide the vtmoſt farthing, thou that art a cruell murtherer whom the reuenge and wronges of a wife, children, parents, and orphants will like the bloud of Abell call to heauen for vengeance on thee and thy poſterity: doe but

conſider

consider of this, and then thou wilt be affaid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romaines who builded a temple for the reliefe of those which were fallen into decay & powerty, then find a prison to starue them in, and follow *Titus Vespacian* who having omitted but one day to doe Iustice caused that day to be put forth of the calender. So that day when thou shalt haue but a thought of tormēting thy poore brother, doe but looke into thy owne consience and it will make thee repent that euer thou hast liued such a day wherein thou hast plaid the tyrant in thy heart. The rockes haue yeelded reliefe to men oppreſt, but you more harder then they, are the cause of their misery. Be thou as great a tyrant ouer thy poore debtor as *Nero* was, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane as *Lycaon*, & in the end thou doest with thes get a staffe to breake thy owne head, and lay a snare which thou thy selfe shalt fall into, which though thy owne person escape, yet thy posterity shalbe sure to feele the punishment.

Thou that vaunteſt, and wilt make dice of thy debtors bones, be these the

words

words of a man? no of a monſter? no, but a diuel, nay worſe then a diuill, a thing not worthy name, for theſe words thou art as infamous, as the *Iewes* hatefull for calling of dice for the Lords garments, that garment was but a ſenceles thing but thou caſts dice for a peece of thy redeemers body.

Thou takeſt with one clap of a Varlets hand, from the Courtier his honour, from the Lawyer his tongue, from the Merchant the ſeas, from the Cittizen his credit, from the Scholler his preferment, from the husband man the earth it ſelfe (and from all men as much as thou maiſt) the brightnes and warmth of the ſunne of heauen, in a word if nothing will make thy ſtony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debtor, art worſe then the hang-man, hee before hee ſtrikes begs pardon, thou takeſt a pride to condemne where thou maiſt ſaue.

But it may bee thy eſtate is ſicke, thy credit much ingaged, and to ſaue thy ſelfe thou art forced to doe this. In ſo doing thou doſt well, if another weare thy coate and thou goeſt colde

thou maist pluck it from his shoulders. If thou art hungry and another keepeth thy meate, thou maist take it off his table, if he be able to cure thy wound, which for his sake thou hast made, thou hast reason to seeke thy remedy; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate, hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to couer him with, wilt thou trample vpon his naked body? If with the Iew of *Malta* in stead of coyne thou requirest a pound of flesh next to thy debtors heart, wilt thou cut him in peeces? If thy debtor offer thee his bed he lyes in, his chamber hee sleepes in, his dish hee drinkes in, nay all that he hath, so that he leaues himselfe, wife and children as naked as they came into the world, wilt thou for all this suffer him to lye in prison? If thou be mercifull to thy debtor that cannot pay thee, alas what is it? No more then if thou shouldst lift vp the head of a sick man vpon his pillow to ease him, he may recouer and doe as much for thee; In prison pouerty is made beggery, and so thereby thou dost not onely vndoe thy debtor, but loose all; therefore bee mercifull and pitifull,

and

nd thou shalt not loose thy reward.

*Lycurgus* being askt why he made no law for parricides, he answered because he thought there were none so vnnaturall: so if I should haue studied all the dayes of my life, and that my yeares should be doubled, I should neuer haue Imagined either to haue inuented, or to haue bin an eye-witnesse of such vnnaturallnes as is heere exemplary, as the sonne who being bound for his father, to free himselfe hath layd his father vp in close prison, and heere hath detayned him seauen yeares neuer yeelding to any composition, but his poore father liues at his mercilesse mercie, and againe the father suffers his sonne to be imprisoned for his owne debt at his owne suit, surely a thing so abhorde, that I tremble to write it, and none can reade it without blushing. What will this world come to, when the *Mammon* of this world shall set father against sonne, sonne against father, and make them more mercilesse then *Tygers*, and more vnnaturall then beasts? for a beast forsakes not his owne, but man respecteth gold before his friends,

Parricides.

and

& the father, coyne before the sonne ob-
tis body, flesh of his flesh. And
the sonne the God of this world be-
fore his father, which gaue him life,
and beeing whom he ought to che-
rish, and vndergoe all troubles to
ease him. But looke to it, both fa-
thers and children, least in a moment
the iust iudgment of God fall vppon
you, and damne them and your gold
together, louing it better then those
whom you ought to cherish, and the
one to be but a thing of the baseſt
essence in respect of the other. I could
exemplifie it with historyes as well
forraine as domestique but that it is
not my purpose, for *Ex paucis plurima concipi ingenium.*

Ex paucis dictis plurima intendere potes.

## *The Character of a Creditor.*

A Creditor is a man whose estate
is wrapped vp in sheepe-skins,
his rising growes by his debtors fall,
his credit relyes vpon his debtors per-
formance, and the death of a young
gallants father is more pleasing to him
then fasting dayes to a Vsurer, or death
to a Broker, hee growes rich onely by
putting forth commodities, which
but immediately

mediately conuerts to discommodities, hee will not put out money for tenne in the hundred, for vsury is hatefull to him, but hee loues extortion and makes that his *summum bonum*, for he will marchandize with you, whereby hee will gaine sixty in a hundred, hee is your Cities honest man, which is, to speake the truth, more thé a knaue, for a knaue that is crafty needs no broker, but hee cannot liue without one. He is a man composed of all loue, and protesting kindnesse to pleasure the occasions of his gallant debtor, with his much affirmation of his respect, how willing he is to doe his worship a pleasure, whereby the chiefe ayme of his pleasure is to haue a footing vppon some capitall messuage, or else to be fingring some petty Lordshippe, or cõely mánor, who hauing no sooner glutted himselfe with the rich banquet of his debtors deere cost, but immediately to physick himselfe he is at the charge of a faire hackney Coach with three most absolute lades to draw him (whither hee most willingly is drawne) with his curious wife, and two or three of his owne

Similis simili gaudet.

conditioned neighbours, to see this goodly purchase, who prepare themselues some fortnight before hand, and prune themselues vp in their Peacocks feathers like the puppets in a Lord Maior his pageant, and for this his great act he is admired at amongst his neighbours as the Owle in the day time amongst other birds, and esteemed of with as much respect as that captaine *Pigmi* was, which was commander in that bloudy warres against the terrible black Crowes.

A *Creditor* may further be said to bee either, *homo*, *monstrum*, *or demon*. A man when he casts his debtor into Prison with a determination to seeke his owne, not to ruin him, and if he bee not able to pay all, to take what he can spare, and giue him day for the rest, and so release him: this man is (*homo hominis Deus*) that as he doth punish, so he doth preserue.

A Monster when he hath not onely extended his substance but casts him in Prison, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of release till he haue paid him the vtmost farthing.

A diuell

A Diuell when hee hath ruined him doth reioyce to see him fall, and in stead of coyne will haue his carkasse, but to finde a creditor both *Homo et Angelus*, that will release his prisoner when he is not able to pay him, and that will consider that *vltra posse non esse esse*. Such a one is *Rara auis in terris, &c.*

*Some creditors are pittifull,*
*And mercy still will show:*
*And some as flint will harder be,*
*Which many debters know.*

## *Of choyce of company in Prison.*

WOuldst thou learne to dispute well, be an excellent Sophister, wouldst thou dispute of forraine affaires, and be an excellent linguist, I counsell thee to trauel? Wouldst thou be of a pleasing and affectionate behauiour? Frequent the Court. Wouldst thou diue into the secret villanies of man? Lye in prison.

Takeheed when thou entrest into this wildernesse of wilde beasts, what path thou takest, some guide is necessary, Via periculosa.

necessary, or else vnwares, thou wilt with the Roman Emperours Steward fall into a pit, where cruell deuouring are intrapped, which will ruine thee.

Societie is the string at which the life of man hangeth without which is no musicke, two in this maske is but a vnion, *Adam* had his *Eue*, and euery sonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loues.

No Chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it steady, a third is superfluous, foure too cumbersome, thou must choose one and but one, who walkes alone is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into prison, as all riuers runne into the sea, therefore it is good to be familiar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any *eandem cantilenam cano*, but with one, make triall what the vessell will hold before thou powre thy selfe into him, and bee wary what thou sayest or doest, for thou shalt haue the eies of enuy, not of reproofe which will looke vpon thee, to malice thee if thou doest well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humors, or to dannce after their owne pipe,

thou

thou ſhalt be more emulated then the boy was of the two Ladies when hee preferred *Venus* before in giuing her the golden ball, and if by accident thou doeſt any thing amiſſe, as *humanum eſt errare* thou ſhalt bee more vilified, and with inueterate malice more proſecuted to diſgrace thee, then the Phariſees did the Hugonites.

Be wary therefore of thy company, for to be a bowle for euery alley, and runne into euery company prooues thy minde to haue no bias.

Thy comming into priſon is like a traueller comming into ſtrange countries, and takes vp ſeuerall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwell with thy ſelfe be not giddy, but compoſed, for hee that is euery where is no where, therefore be wary whom thou ſelecteſt, for here bee of all ſorts, for thou ſhalt as well finde a flattering *Gnatho*, as a diſſembling *Sinon*, and if thou haue ſtore of crownes, then thou ſhalt be ſure to be humored and bee beloued with outward reſpects, and then they wil counſell and aduiſe thee with proteſtations

of their loue, but looke to such, whose counsell to heare, and not imbrace will do hurt but may much improue thee, but if once taken it will operate as the apple which *Valentine* dutchesse of *Orleans* cast to the young Princes which once tasted, will so poyson thee with corruption that thou art vncurable.

Further heere be vaine glorious & taskaiue headed fooles, such wil more trouble thee, then any action of debt which is laid one thee heere be common drunkards, which wil lie heauier one thee then an execution.

But if thou suffer a man to ly long in thy bosome, albeit his conditions be full of flawes, yet labour to peece and seame vp his vices, rather then to cast him off least that it call thy owne iudgment in question.

humanum eum errare.

All men haue imperfections, and being in prison' wee must not looke to haue them starres, this place is noe *Orbe* for such constellations.

Let not thy companion be a miserable base minded fellow, for then nigardlinesse will hold her fingers one thy purse stringes, let him not be a Prodigall

digall for then he will draw thee to riot, of adultery to luſt, of ſwearers to damned oaths, of pot companions to drunkenneſſe, acquaint thy ſelfe therefore not with the moſt, but beſt; not the beſt in cloths or money, but in vertue; if there be none ſuch in priſon then keepe company with thy ſelfe, and in thy chamber keepe company with *Plutarke* and *Seneca*, or rather *Perkins* and *Greeneham*, the one will teach thee to liue well, the other to dy well.

Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non meliores.

Cum bonis bonus.

*The good will teach thee good,*
*The bad will thee defame:*
*The one to vertue thee will bring*
*The other greife and ſhame.*

Cum bonis bonus, cum malis malus.

## *The Character of Companions in Priſon.*

*Quot homines, tot ſententiæ.*

All companies are not alike, neither is there a vnion in their diſpoſitions. I will therefore touch but three kinds of perſons which thou ſhalt be ſure to find in priſon. *viz.*

1 *A Paraſite.*
2 *A Iohn indifferent.*
3 *A true harted Titus.*

The

The first loueth thee better for thy meanes then merit, thy substance then thy selfe, who will rippe open thy bosome to thy enemy, and when thy money begins to sinke, will fly from thee, and will be the first that will disgrace thee. Hee is like a whore who will no longer fawne, then thou wilt feede him. Hee is a trencher rascall, which will more hate thee when thou leauest to releeue him, then euer hee did seeme to loue thee.

The second is one that will flatter thee, and will neither absolutely loue thee nor hate thee, but when present will be with thee, when absent against thee, hee is *hic et vbique*, heere and euery where, and in very truth he is no where.

The last of these thou maist call the masculine sweete heart, on which may be resembled to truth whose bosome is allwaies bare, and hath a breast of Chistall, that thou maist looke through his body to his heart, he is one that will loue thee in aduersity, hee will respect thee in the kitchin as well as in the parlor, he will reuerence thee in the hole as well as in the maisters

maiſters ſide hee will looke on thee in raggs as well as in robes, and will acknowledge thee in fetters as in a feather-bed, come ſtormes, cõe calmes, come tempeſts, come ſun-ſhine, come what can come, he wilbe thine and ſtick to thee therefore.

*Be carefull that thou keepe alway,*
*A freind in time of neede:*
*That will thee helpe without delay,*
*If that thou ſtand in neede.*

Verus amicus optimus theſaurus.

## *Of Viſitants in Priſon.*

*Nullus ad amiſſas ibit amicus opes.*

From a ruinous houſe euery man flies, they that are abroad ask euery day how thou doeſt, when in priſon they proteſt they are ſorrow for thy misfortunes, but neuer come to thee, ſuch are idle paſſengers preſſing about a Barbers ſhoppe, when a man is carried in wounded, who will peepe in and climbe about the windowes, but dare not enter into the ſhoppe, for feare they ſhould fall into a ſwoond to ſee him dreſt, a Priſoner is as much beholding to ſuch leape-frogge acquaintance as a man ſhaken with an ague to euery goſſoping woman he meetes

who will teach him a hundered medicines and not one worth taking.

But if thy abiility be such that thou workest thy liberty then thou shalt haue as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimanus* had, much wine with little loue bestowed vpon thee, with oaths infinite that they were comming forty times to see thee, but this or that occasion hindred them, when indeede they were afraide thou shouldest haue had occasion to vse them, & they had purposed to hath come this day, but they are happy that thy so much desired liberty haue preuented them, to such giue no credit, onely salute them with a *Salue*, and a *Vale*.

Others will come to thee with weeping and sighthing to cheere thee vp, but such are like Robin-redbrests that brings strawes in their charitable bills to couer the deade.

Others will promisse to lend thee money, but try them before thou haue occasion to vse them, which if they deny thee, when thou art at liberty be then vnto them as a shaddow. But true friends in a prison are like straw-

berries

berries in a barren countrey, that one can hardly get a handfull in a whole yeare, nay they are like your roſes heere in Chriſtmas, a thouſand to one if in an age, one bee found ſo in priſon it is a great ods if of a thouſand kinſmen, allies, and acquaintance I finde but one true freind.

*Donec eris fœlix multos numerabis amicos.*

*Tempora ſi fuerint nubila, ſolus eris.*

But if in this great dearth of freinds wherein wee liue, vnder what fortunate plannet may I iudge my ſelfe to be borne, and that the conſtellations of the ſtarres haue much fauored me, that amongſt all my fleſh and blood I haue found one true *Damon* or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongſt all my acquaintance haue found ſome faithfull, and more conſtant in their loue and reſpect to me in this place, then when I was at liberty they did make ſhew of, that I may truly ſay.

*Of Viſitants ſome faithfull are,*
*When Priſoners them require:*
*And to them nothing will deny,*
*If that they them deſire.*

## *The Character of Visitants.*

Visitants for the most part are men composed all of protesting promises, and little or no performance they are like your Almanacks, which when they promise faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it proue not contrary, they are like the German clocks which seldome goe right, their tongues runne faster then the clock one shroue-tuesday, the pissing Conduit in cheapeside, or an Irish mans paire of heeles when he runnes one a wager, he will tyre thy eares more in one hower with his loude protestations, then a Scholler, Citizen or Taylor will a hackney horse in halfe a dayes riding, but in performance will be as slow as a Snayle in her pace, and when thy messenger comes to them for money, thé they will be sure to haue the Strongullion, or Cholick that they cannot speake, and looke as rustily one thy messenger, as a Lawyer wil one his clyent which sueth vnder *forma pauperis*, your letters as acceptable as water into a shippe, the Kings priuie seale to a vsurer, a Subpœna

pœna to a countrey Gentleman, or a catchpole amongſt the freindly ſociety of Gallants.

They are like the riches & chaynes bought at Saint Martynes, who were faire for a little time, but ſhortly after will proue alchamy or rather pure copper.

Laſtly, they are like the apples which growe on the bankes of *Gomorrah*, they haue crimſon and beautifull rindes, but when they come to gather them, they crumble all to duſt; and truely can I ſay:

*Of Viſitants ſome deſerue the name,*
*And freindly are to ſome:*
*And ſome there be that meãe no good,*
*But hurt to them they come*

## *Of entertainement in Priſon.*

AS ſoone as thou commeſt before the gate of the Priſon, doe but thinke thou art entring into hell, and it will extenuate ſomewhat of thy miſery, for thou ſhalt be ſure not onely to finde hell, but fiends & vgly monſters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee, for at the gate their ſtands *Cerberus* a man in ſhew but a

dogge

dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne vppon thee, bidding thee welcome in respect of the golden Cruse which he must haue cast him, then he opens the dore with all gentlenes, shewing thee the way to misery is very facile, and being once in, he shuts it with such fury, that it makes the foundation shake and the dore & windowes so baracadoed, that a man so looseth himselfe with admiration that he can hardly finde the way out, and be a sound man. Now for the most part your Porter is either some broke Cittizen, who hath plaide Iack of all trades, some Pander, Broker, or Hangman, that hath plaide the knaue with all men, and for the more certainty his emblime is a red beard to which sack hath made his nose cousen Iermain.

No sooner shall a man passe this fury, but hee is conducted to little ease his chamber, where be no sooner hath entred, but (hard vsage) his chamberlaine salutes him, and protests he hath lodged thee with as honest a man as himselfe, when in truth, as a paire of Sheeres cannot part the knaue betwixt

twixt them, and proteſteth thou ſhalt haue a cleane payre of ſheetes, and of the beſt, who hauing no ſooner fingred thy coyne but ſends thee a payre of ſheetes fitter for a horſe then a man who hauing plaide the lade ſo with thee, then leaues thee. Hee no ſooner departs but thridbare, and monileſſe thy chamber-fellowes, come vpon thee for a Garniſh, which if thou deny them or haſt no money, then *Exit* cloake from thy ſhoulders, and enters two douſen of pots, and one douſen of pipes, this is the pillowe which ſhall be giuen thee to ſleepe on the firſt night: now thou muſt be ſaluted in the morning, or elſe peraduenture thou wilt thinke thy ſelfe not welcome.

In the morning at thy vpriſing, (*Pothearbe*) the Gardiner appeares in his likeneſſe, and he wil haue *vnguentum arum* for the narrowe path thou haſt to walke in.

Then to whet on thy ſtomach to dinner comes (*Cut-throate*) the Steward for his crowne, who profeſſeth much kindneſſe hee will ſhewe thee, for thou haſt bound him with thy cour-

dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne vppon thee, bidding thee welcome in respect of the golden Cruse which he must haue cast him, then he opens the dore with all gentlenes, shewing thee the way to misery is very facile, and being once in, he shuts it with such fury, that it makes the foundation shake and the dore & windowes so baracadoed, that a man so looseth himselfe with admiration that he can hardly finde the way out, and be a sound man. Now for the most part your Porter is either some broke Cittizen, who hath plaide Iack of all trades, some Pander, Broker, or Hangman, that hath plaide the knaue with all men, and for the more certainty his emblime is a red beard to which sack hath made his nose cousen Iermain.

No sooner shall a man passe this fury, but hee is conducted to little ease his chamber, where be no sooner hath entred, but (hard vsage) his chamberlaine salutes him, and protests he hath lodged thee with as honest a man as himselfe, when in truth, as a paire of Sheeres cannot part the knaue betwixt

twixt them, and protesteth thou shalt haue a cleane payre of sheetes, and of the best, who hauing no sooner fingred thy coyne but sends thee a payre of sheetes fitter for a horse then a man who hauing plaide the lade so with thee, then leaues thee. Hee no sooner departs but thridbare, and monilesse thy chamber-fellowes, come vpon thee for a Garnish, which if thou deny them or hast no money, then *Exit* cloake from thy shoulders, and enters two douzen of pots, and one douzen of pipes, this is the pillowe which shall be giuen thee to sleepe on the first night; now thou must be saluted in the morning, or else peraduenture thou wilt thinke thy selfe not welcome.

In the morning at thy vprising, (*Pothearbe*) the Gardiner appeares in his likenesse, and he wil haue *vnguentum arum* for the narrowe path thou hast to walke in.

Then to whet on thy stomach to dinner comes (*Cut-throate*) the Steward for his crowne, who professeth much kindnesse hee will shewe thee, for thou hast bound him with thy cour-

courtesie, to couzen thee, not onely in thy meate but money.

Next after this comes (Mistresse *Deceipt*) the head Cooke, who protesteth thou shalt commaund her, who hauing no sooner greased her fingers with thy siluer, but euer after she will haue a hand in thy dish what thou canst to preuent it, so on all sides the blood of thy purse must bee powred out to maintaine such merciles blood-hounds and continuall purse-leaches.

These furies, as they haue diuers shapes, so haue they seuerall kindes of temptations, for after thou hast beene some fortnight in prison, they will come to thee, to cheere thee least thou shouldest adde melancholy to discontentment, and will tell thee they wish thee well, and thou shalt commaund them, and in their opinion the sight of thee streete wil much content thee, and they will attend thee to the Tauerne within the rule, where thou must quench their thirst with sacke, and what is got of thee is well got, being obtained by rule, for he that liues by rule cannot erre.

Suppose thou either perceiuest these things

things by others, or by thy owne example, and ſo refuſe this profered courteſie of theirs, purchaſed for their pleaſures at thy owne coſt. Then if at any time vpon iuſt occaſion thou deſireſt it, then thou muſt giue them a cup of *aurum potabile*, or elſe expect not the leaſt fauour, or ſmalleſt courteſie for no penny no paternoſter, no gold no friendſhip.

If thou continually bee offered injuries beare them patiently, or elſe thou ſhalt bee laide in yrons for ſatisfaction.

If they perceiue thou art like to continue, and haſt good meanes, thou ſhalt want no content that priſon can yeelde, but euery dram of content wil coſt thee a pound of ſiluer.

When they heare thou art vpon diſcharge, then they will bee very ſorry and make all the beſt meanes that poſſibly they can to detaine thee, but if there be no remedy, but thou muſt needes depart, then what with their three half-pence a pound for Action money, and three in the pound for Execution, they will make ſuch a large bill, which will bee more vnconſcionable

nable then a Taylors, for he will abate of the *Summa totalis*, but in this, here is nothing to bee abated, all their ſpeech is *legem pone*, or elſe with their ill cuſtome they will detaine thee, for thy deniall is an Execution without triall by lawe, for notwithſtanding that amongſt iuſt men *malus vſus abolendus eſt*, heere *conſeruandus et preſeruandus*, and ſo thy entrance into priſon, thy continuance in priſon, and thy diſcharge out of priſon will bee nothing but racking the heartſtrings of poore priſoners, and exhauſting the ſubſtance of the diſtreſſed, whatſoeuer their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *Summa iniuria eſt ſummum ius.*

## *Of Keepers which goe abroad with Priſoners.*

HAſt thou a deſire to goe abroad thy *Argos* which attends thee, will be more chargeable then the Lord Maiors gally foyſt on Simon & Judes day, or a Cittizens wife to her husband when ſtrawberries and cherries are firſt cryed in the ſtreetes, and will

4 ſhillings per diem cum Cere. re et Bacchо.

will conſume thee if thou forbeare not, thou maiſt better cheaperide one thy foote-cloth, then goe adroade with thy keeper.

If thou walkeſt abroad with thy keeper vſe him freindly, but reſpectiuely, ſo manage him, that he ſhall rather thinke himſelfe beholding to thee then thou to him, for howſoeuer hee fawnes vppon thee with compliements ſtanding bare with officious attendance, yet know hee ſerues in his place but as the dogge the Butcher he is to thee as a curre to a droue of beaſts if thou goeſt one quietly (be it to thy ſlaughter amongſt griping Citizens, & cruell creditors to worke thy owne freedome, he waits gently and brings thee to the dore, but if thou once offer to ſtray he wooreſ thee.

Remember his eye ſhootes at two whites, thy perſon and thy purſe, the one is to guard thee the other to feede him, thou art compelled to ptotect thy carcaſe vnder his ſhelter, as a ſheepe in a terrible ſtorme vnder a bryar, and be ſure thy ſtanding there is to hae ſome of thy wooll toone off.

*The*

## The Character of Keepers.

YOur Keepers most commonly are insinuating knaues, and mercinary rascalls, wearing their maisters liuery, but their owne badge which is slaue, in full proportion they looke like the picture of enuy, with their hands continually diuing into poore Prisoners pockets, with their heads vncouered, still proffering courtesies when their hearts make answere, what kindenesse they doe is (*non tibi sed pecunie*,) they most commonly feede well, to their maisters creddit, but the tablers charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knaue which I haue giuen them, as the olde prouerbe is, touch a gald horse and he wil kick. I wil maintain (I say) what out of their owne authors, a bird of their owne nest, yet not altogether so ill, who said to me that he was weary of his slauish life, in respect he must be knaue in his place, who said, if he were true to his Maister, he must be knaue to prisoners, if true to prisoners, knaue to his maister. So be he honest in his vocation, or dishonest, hee must bee still knaue

for

for *mala mens, malus animus.*

There are abundance of these snakes which lie lurking in this place, whose chiefest felicitie is to talke of so many new prisoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of release, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keepe not such a bawling as these curres euery morning in the Tearme, to goe abroad with poore prisoners, by rule onely to prey and seise vpon their coyne, and they will not abate one peny of their extortion, though the poore prisoner fast a week with bread and water. And they reioyce more for a *Habeas Corpus* in the vacation, then the husbandman for a plentifull harueſt, or the Merchant for the safe landing of his ship.

For mony they will doe any thing, be it neuer so ill, so thereby they may purchase coyne, holding it a maxime, that siluer is well gotten, if by any meanes obtained, and to vse crueltie to prisoners, is pollicy, and wisedome; because now is the time or neuer, for being once infranchised they will bee as wary to come in againe as the bird which hath escaped the fowlers net.

## Of Iaylors, or the Maisters of prisons.

VTrum horum mavis accipe, there is not a haire to choose, the olde prouerbe must bee verified, neuer a barrell the better herring, Iacke must bee equall to Gill; they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ (*nomine tantùm*: but learne them as you please, or by what name, they are *ab origine*, but Iaylors.

All Iaylors are not alike, some are more worthy then other, I onely touch the worst sort of them, and that for the most part, for the basenes of the one cannot any waies impeach the worth of the other, but doeth giue greater splendor to the truly noble, being most contrary, for *Duo contraria oppesita magis elucescunt.*

For the most part your keepers of prisons are very obdurate, and will shewe no fauour and doe looke to bee spoken to by men of worth to bee fauourable to their prisoners, who will promise faithfully, but the crossing of the water dyminisheth their remembrance, they put much confidence in the por-

ter,

ter, and other officers, and will beleeue the wordes of ſuch inſinuating knaues, before the oathes of Gentlemen of worth, or other conſcionable men their priſoners, they are more griping then an Vſurer, for he will be content with ſecuritie, but when a priſoner is vpon diſcharge they will not take baile or ſecuritie, nay they will not abate one poore twenty ſhillings, though they haue gained neuer ſo much by them, but will bee King and Keyſar having the lawes in their owne hands, will iuſtifie the detaining of trunkes or cloathes; if the priſoner haue none, then they by violence will take cloake, or doublet, and turne you out naked.

Further, they are farre more vnconſcionable then a Broker, who takes fortie in the hundred, but they will thinke it charitie to take fiftie, and for a chamber where poore priſoners lye like beaſts, not men.

For cruelty they exceede *Nero*, for he would kill ſuddenly, but your Iaylors doe detaine men of good parts, who haue lyen there ſeuen yeere, not taking any commiſeration, in be-

ing content to take what they can ſpare, and giue day for the reſt, but when the cruell creditor hath relented, then the obduratenesſe returnes, and penetrates the breſt of his keeper not to redeeme him till he haue paide all demaunds. But what are they inriched by it? It ſo conſumes them, that they are ſo poore, ſo compaſſed about with troubles, that they liue beggerly, and dye poore, and that which they inrich themſelues by, exhauſting their ſubſtance out of the very blood of priſoners, their iſſue liues the worſe by it, and, without godly repentance, they may keepe hell gates to giue his men place, which for their tallent hath beene worſe then their maſter.

## *The Character of Iaylors.*

A laylor is as cruell to his priſoners, as a dogge-killer in the plague time to a diſeaſed curre, and ſhewes no more pity to a young Gentleman, then the vnconſcionable Citizen that laide him in: when they meete you in the ſtreetes they ſhewe themſelues more humble to you, then a whore

when

when she is brought before a Constable, or a cheater before a Iustice, but when you fall into their fingers, they wil be as curriſh as they ſeemed kind.

They are like Bawdes and Beadles, that liue vpon the ſins of the people, mens follies fill their purſes.

But ſome conflict is, he hath ſome miſery, for his pillowe is more ſtuft with feates then feathers, and though euery priſoner ſinkes vnder the waight of his owne debts, yet his keeper feeles the burthen of all, and if ſometimes by eſcapes (though againſt his will) hee did not pay ſome poore mens debts, his extortion would be ſo waightie, that the earth could ſcarce beare him. and to conclude, he deſerues the olde prouerbe,

as cruell as a
Iaylor.

*FINIS.*